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CLAIMS**What is claimed is:**

1. A system for automatically matching patients to clinical trials comprising:
  2. a database component operative to maintain:
    3. one or more hospital patient database components and their one or more hospital databases and their corresponding plurality of patient names and their medical records, wherein said hospital patient database components are in communication with one or more medical practice database components and their corresponding plurality of specialties and their corresponding plurality of patient names and their medical records,
    4. a clinical studies database component and its corresponding plurality of clinical studies,
    5. a communications component to receive changes to said database component; and
    6. a processor programmed to:
      7. periodically match compatible patients and clinical studies and generate reports to matched medical practices in said medical practice database component having one or more patients matched to at least one clinical study.
19. 2. The system according to claim 1, wherein:
  20. said database component identifies patient names associated with each medical practice in said medical practice database component; and
  21. said processor generates reports to medical practices having identified patients, said reports including a listing of prospective patients for at least one clinical trial.
25. 3. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
  26. a searching component for searching said clinical studies database component, and said one or more hospital patient database components, wherein said communications component is adaptable to receive searching order instructions.
30. 4. The system according to claim 3, wherein:
  31. said processor is programmed with a rule-based system to vary search parameter priority, based on the type of data requested, wherein said search parameter priority is set to search free text keywords or a phrase in a specified order.
35. 5. The system according to claim 4, wherein:
  36. Said search parameter priority is set to perform text analysis last.
37. 6. The system according to claim 1 wherein said processor is further programmed to convert database information from incompatible operating systems to the operating system of the processor.

CLAIMS**What is claimed is:**

- 40 7. The system according to claim 1, wherein said clinical studies database  
41 contains clinical trials selected from the group consisting of clinical drug  
42 and clinical device trials.
- 43 8. A computerized method for matching patients to clinical medical studies  
44 comprising:
  - 45 identifying a group of patients in a hospital database;
  - 46 identifying at least one clinical study;
  - 47 maintaining a database identifying each said patient in said  
48 hospital database and each said clinical study; and
  - 49 comparing said group of patients in said hospital database to said  
50 clinical studies and matching one or more patients in a hospital  
51 database to one or more clinical trials, utilizing a computer to  
52 perform said comparison.
- 53 9. The method according to claim 8, further comprising:
  - 54 maintaining said database to include a plurality of patient profiles  
55 associated with a corresponding medical practice; and
  - 56 notifying a medical practice when at least one of said patient  
57 profiles matches the requirements of said clinical studies.
- 58 10. The method according to claim 8, wherein said step of maintaining a  
59 database further comprises converting data from an incompatible  
60 operating system to the operating system of the processor.